

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SAM-01 /054 W

----- 091137

O R 100935Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9285

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PHNOM PENH 2541

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, SOPN, CB, US

SUBJECT: US PRESS COVERAGE OF SITUATION IN CAMBODIA

1. DURING THE PAST DAY WE HAVE HEARD HERE SOME REPORTING ON OUR SITUATION BY US DOMESTIC NEWS MEDIA THAT HAS PAINTED A LESS THAN ACCURATE PICTURE OF SITUATION OF US MISSION AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY. BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE FOR DEPT. PRESS SPOKESMAN TO SET FACTS STRAIGHT AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

2. WE ARE NOT REPEAT NOT ENGAGED IN ANY STAGE OR ASPECT OF AN EVACUATION. ALL TWO HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL US MISSION ARE ON THE JOB IN PHNOM PENH IN NORMAL FASHION. FIVE OF OUR DEPENDENT WIVES WHO HAVE BEEN VISITING THEIR HUSBANDS IN PHNOM PENH ARE LEAVING THIS WEEK TO RETURN TO THEIR REGULAR SAFEHAVENS IN BANGKOK OR ELSEWHERE. FOR THE TIME BEING WE ARE NOT AUTHORIZING VISITS BY DEPENDENTS WHO IN PAST HAVE OCCASIONALLY VISITED HERE FOR SHORT PERIODS. PHNOM PENH IS A NON-DEPENDENT POST AND WE ARE SIMPLY MAKING NO EXCEPTIONS TO THAT STATUS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENT. WE HOPE THIS WILL BE A TEMPORARY MEASURE AND

THAT VISITING BY SOME DEPENDENTS WILL RESUME AT LATER DATE.

3. IN THIS ACTION WE ARE CONFORMING TO WHAT SOME OTHER MISSIONS HAVE ALREADY DONE, NOTABLY FRENCH AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE WHO HAVE LARGE COLONIES OF DEPENDENTS. IN GENERAL WE HAVE BEEN COUNSELING THOSE GROUPS, AMERICAN AND OTHER NATIONAL, FOR WHICH WE HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY, TO CONSIDER MOVING THEIR DEPENDENTS TO SAFEHAVENS, SOLELY AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE TO REDUCE NUMBERS IN PHNOM PENH.

4. FYI. WE HAVE BEEN TREATING DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN WIVES IN LOW-KEY MANNER AND NOT TO BE TAKEN AS INDICATION THAT SECURITY SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED. THOUGH MEKONG BLOCKADE REMAINS A CRITICAL FACTOR TO BE DEALT WITH, BECAUSE OF ITS EFFECT ON SUPPLY SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH, POCHENTONG AIRPORT (WHICH HAS REPEATEDLY AND ERRONEOUSLY BEEN REPORTED AS BEING CLOSED) IS OPERATING NORMALLY AND DOES NOT APPEAR AT THIS TIME TO BE IN DANGER OF INTERDICTION. END FYI.

DEAN

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Message Attributes

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